

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 3 are pending.

No new matter has been introduced. In a Notice of Allowance dated December 14, 2005, the Examiner allowed claims 1 - 3.

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently with this Request for Continued Examination. The IDS identifies references cited in a corresponding Japanese patent application. The IDS and PTO-1449 form are presented to the Examiner in lieu of paying the issue fee.

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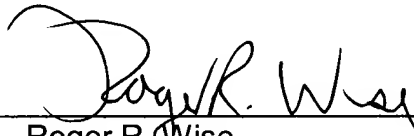
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Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

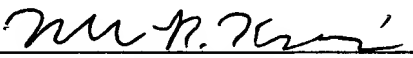
Respectfully submitted,

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